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Chapter
10

WHEN HER MAJESTY TRAVELS A LONG DISTANCE FOR AN IMPERIAL VACATION, MANY PEOPLE ACCOMPANY HER
Patter Patter
IS THIS ALL THE BAGGAGE?
*In charge of carriages
EQUERRIES *
DAIZENS *
*In charge of food
THEN,
BODYGUARDS.
CHAMBERLAINS.
DOCTORS.

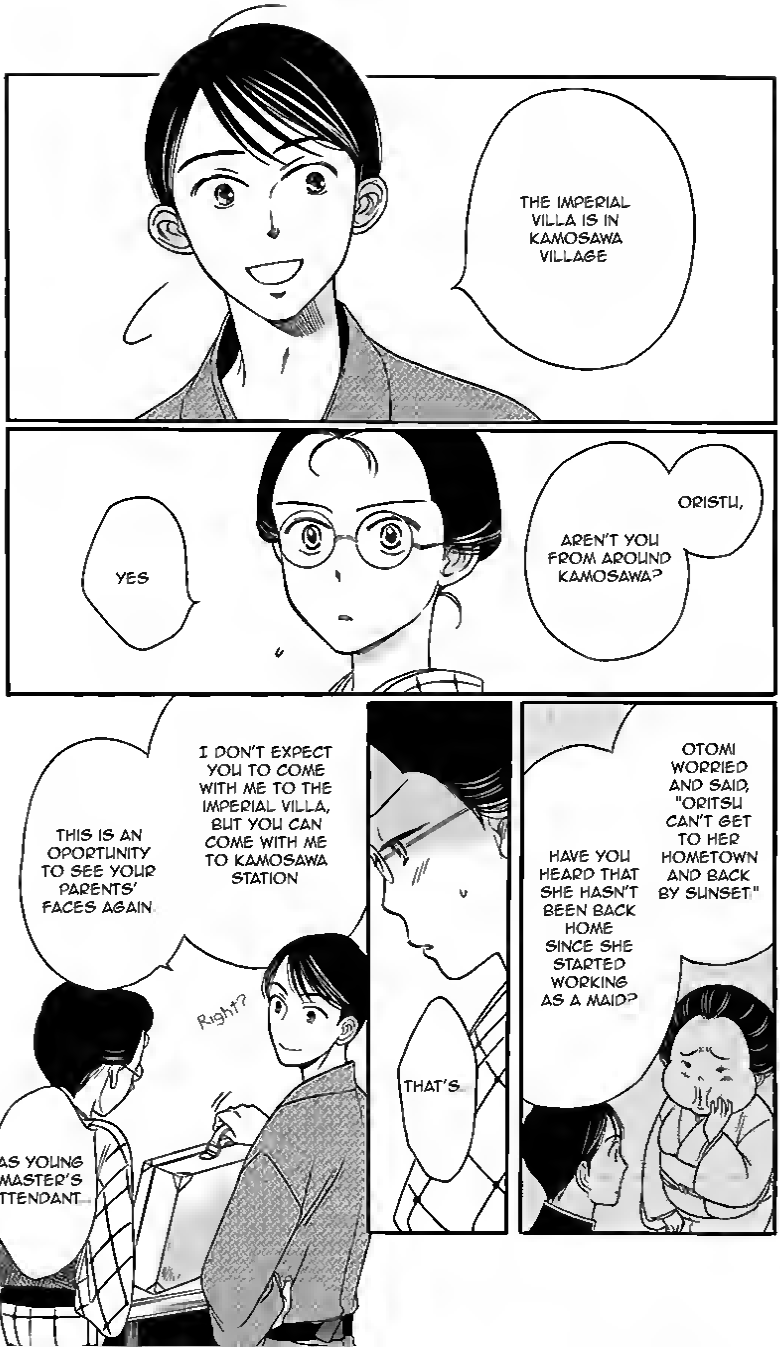
YOUR ATTENDANTS HAVE ALL ASSEMBLED,
MEEN
MEEN
MEEN
YOUR MAJESTY
hehehe
HER MAJESTY'S BEING LIKE THAT AGAIN
WE'RE THERE ONE WEEK, THEN COME BACK HOME IMMEDIATELY
IT'S THE SAME AS USUAL
WHEN YOU DON'T TAKE A BREAK ,THE ATTENDANTS DON'T TAKE A BREAK EITHER
HEY!
grumble
grumble
grumble
IF I TAKE A BREAK FROM IMPERIAL BUSINESS AWAY FROM THE CAPITAL, WON'T THE GOVERN-MENT BE DELAYED?

APPEARS
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO ACCOMPANYING YOU!
kya
BESIDES
MEEN
MEEN
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE VISTED THE IMPERIAL VILLA IN SUMMER!
It's a new hat for my dress
ALL OF THE PALACE LADIES,
...
sparkle
sparkle
HE ALWAYS COMES TO SEE YOU OFF AT THE CEDAR DOORS
HMM?
I DON'T SEE RON
MAYBE HE'S SULKING, SINCE HE'S STAYING AT THE PALACE.
hehehe

BOTH THE DOG AND THE CHAMBER-LAIN ATTENO-ANTS
WILL NOT ACCOMPANY HER MAJESTY
MISONO,
UNTIL JUST NOW
THE REASON IS
MEEN
MEEN
WAIT FOR ME, THEN.
HAVE A SAFE TRIP, YOUR MAJESTY!
MEEN
HER MAJ-ESTY,
MEEN
BUT I AM NOT SULKING LIKE THE DOG

HER MAJESTY'S HEALTH?
THE STUDENT ATTENDANTS WILL NOT ACCOMPANY HER MAJESTY
BUT IT IS CUSTOM TO GO AND INQUIRE ABOUT HER MAJESTY'S HEALTH AT THE VILLA
ABOUT MISONO COMING TO THE IMPERIAL VILLA...
I'VE NEVER BEEN
BUT HER MAJESTY WILL BE GOING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS.
YOU MIGHT COME TO PLAY FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
IT WILL BE DURING YOUR SCHOOL'S SUMMER VACATION.
He's smiling
YES MA'AM!
HER MAJESTY WILL WAIT FOR ME TOO.
"PLEASE UNDERSTAND YOUR ROLE AS A RETAINER."

"IN THE NEAR FUTURE,
YOU COULD BECOME TROUBLESOME TO HER MAJESTY
MISONO-SAN"
SHOULD I COME AS WELL TO INQUIRE ABOUT HER MAJESTY'S HEALTH?
OH
YEAH
?
YOUNG MASTER?
...


THE IMPERIAL VILLA IS IN KAMOSAWA VILLAGE
ORISTU, AREN'T YOU FROM AROUND KAMOSAWA?
YES
OTOMI WORRIED AND SAID, "ORITSU CAN'T GET TO HER HOMETOWN AND BACK BY SUNSET"
HAVE YOU HEARD THAT SHE HASN'T BEEN BACK HOME SINCE SHE STARTED WORKING AS A MAID?
THAT'S...
I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO COME WITH ME TO THE IMPERIAL VILLA, BUT YOU CAN COME WITH ME TO KAMOSAWA STATION
THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE YOUR PARENTS' FACES AGAIN.
Right?
AS YOUNG MASTER'S ATTENDANT...

A THREE HOUR TRAIN RIDE FROM THE CAPITAL,
A PLACE WITH MOUNTAINS AND CLEAR WATERS
THE IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD'S SUMMER PLACE IS KAMOSAWA VILLA.
clunk
clunk
clunk
CHOO
clatter
clatter
LIKE THIS, AT LAST,
MY SUMMER VACATION BEGAN.
...I WILL!

WHAT A CLEAR STREAM!
WOW!
Nice
Yikes
It's cold
splash
splash
HEY!
YOU'RE CHASING THE FISH AWAY!

HMM?
AREN'T YOU A CHAMBERLAIN BOY?
OH
EXCUSE US
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT...
IT'S ME. WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER MUCH IN THE PALACE.
I'M THE DAIZEN UMEYAMA.
A MID-RANGE MASTER OF THE DAIZEN-SHOKU,
UME-YAMA CHUU-JIROU
OH!

I didn't recognize you without the white coat.
DID YOU COME HERE WITH HER MAJESTY?
YES. INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE PALACE, HER MAJESTY NEEDS US TO PREPARE HER FOOD
I THOUGHT I SHOULD PRESENT THIS FRESHLY CAUGHT FISH TODAY, BUT
I do everything
tsk
I'LL FIND ANOTHER FISHING SPOT, THEN
thud
thud
SEE YOU LATER, BOY
Take care
Well...
I'LL GO BACK TO MY HOTEL TOO.
HERE, ORITSU
RED BEAN CANDY...
IT'S A PRESENT YOU CAN ENJOY AT HOME.
SINCE WE'RE RETURNING ON THE TRAIN TOMORROW, MEET ME AT THE STATION AT FOUR O'CLOCK.
See you then
YOUNG MASTER.

WHAT IS IT?
DON'T YOU WANT
TO GO BACK HOME...
ORITSU?

YOUNG MASTER, MAY I STAY AT THE HOTEL WITH YOU?
MEEN
MISONO STILL HASN'T COME?
MEEN

MISONO IS COMING TOMORROW
SETTING THAT ASIDE, YOUR MAJESTY, WE'VE ALREADY TAKEN A STROLL IN THIS PLACE...
I don't need a parasol
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY WITH ME THE ENTIRE TIME I'M AWAY FROM THE VILLA
ALL OF YOU CAN REST UNDER A TREE.
I'll use this
THANK YOU.
MEEN
sigh
MEEN

MISONO
...AND
WHO IS THAT?

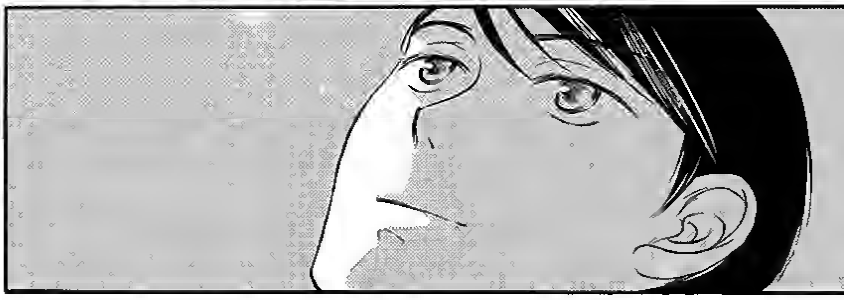
ORITSU,
WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO GO HOME?
IT'S
GO AWAY, RITSU!
YOU WON'T LISTEN TO YOUR FATHER.
tremble
tremble
whoosh

...IT CAN'T BE HELPED
scratch scratch
I DIDN'T KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES. I WON'T FORCE YOU TO DO SOMETHING YOU HATE.
THANK YOU, YOUNG MASTER!
sigh
BUT I ONLY HAVE ONE ROOM AT THE HOTEL.
BUT WHY DID YOU COME TO KAMOSAWA?
THAT WAS...
SO I COULD BE WITH YOUNG MASTER.
?

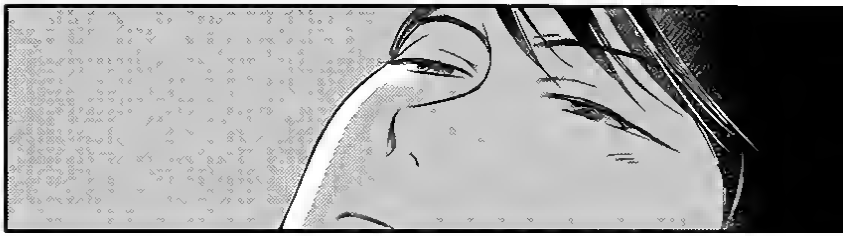
I THOUGHT YOUNG MASTER WOULD BE LIKE A LOST CHILD!
Am I that unreliable
IS YOUR MAJESTY ALREADY FINISHED?
YES, IT WAS GOOD
ALL OF YOU CAN EAT NOW
hmm

IT'S RARE THAT SHE WOULD LEAVE SO MUCH
PERHAPS IT'S HER MAJESTY'S HEALTH, BUT...
Court Physician Poison Taster
SHE'S NOT ILL, SO IT MUST HAVE NOT SUITED HER
WHAT?
Complaining about my flavors...
munch
munch
侍従
Chamberlains (Sharing the benefits with others)
NO, THIS IS STILL CHEF UMEYAMA
munch
munch
munch
yum
THE ROAST BEEF IN THE CONSOMME SOUP IS DELICIOUS!
grrr
...
I WANT TO PRESENT SWEETFISH TO HER MAJESTY!
GRIP
SWEETFISH TOMORROW!
PATIENCE, ORITSU

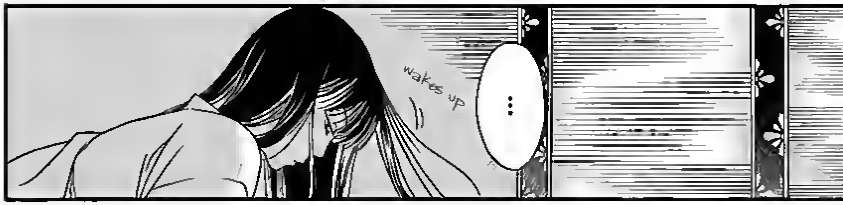
YOUNG MASTER...
squeeze
Sorry there's not much space here
Futon Room
squeeze
squeeze
THERE WAS A MISTAKE WITH THE RESERVATION
AND THIS PLACE IS FULL OF SUMMER VISITORS...
IN SOCIETY, SERVANTS ARE OFTEN TREATED BADLY BY MASTERS.
WHY ARE YOU SO KIND TO ME?
BECAUSE HER MAJESTY TREATS ME KINDLY
...
YES, IT'S
SURELY
Really?



"You could become troublesome to Her Majesty."



COULD THAT BE TRUE?



WHO WAS SHE?
HOW COULD I BE TROUBLESOME TO HER MAJESTY?
TOMORROW I'LL CALL ON THE IMPERIAL VILLA...
OH!

I've got a fishing rod!
GOOD MORNING, UMEYAMA-SAN.
I'M GOING TO PRESENT SWEETFISH TO HER MAJESTY!
EN
ME
MEEN
MEEN
BITING INTO A GRILLED SWEETFISH
IS THE BEST!
Yeah!
SWEETFISH SHOULD BE GRILLED!
slowly
freshly baked
I CAN'T TAKE IT.
Yum

EH?
BUT HER MAJESTY DOESN'T GET TO TASTE THAT
THE PHYSICIANS AND LADIES MADE A FUSS
A BONE COULD BECOME STUCK IN HER MAJESTY'S THROAT. IT'S A SERIOUS MATTER IF HER MAJESTY'S MOUTH IS SCALDED
Prepare it in a cold style
Remove the bones
Open it and take out the inside
AS A DAIZEN, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO PRESENT HER MAJESTY WITH THE MOST DELICIOUS FOOD
THAT'S
IF YOU MAKE IT LIKE THAT, AREN'T YOU TAKING GREAT CARE TO RUIN IT?
THAT'S RIGHT!!
BOY, YOU'RE A MAN OF GREAT TASTE!
I like that!!

ALRIGHT! DELICIOUS SWEETFISH WILL FILL HER MAJESTY'S STOMACH.
MEEN
MEEN
MEEN
MEEN
WE'LL PRESENT IT TO HER MAJESTY!!
OKAY!
3 hrs later
SWIM
.....
MEEN
MEEN
MEEN
splash
HOW DID WE ONLY CATCH A RICEFISH!
It will disappear during grilling!
ARE YOU SAYING I CAN'T CATCH ANYTHING!

BIG CATCH
YOUNG MASTER,
I ASKED AT THE IMPERIAL VILLA, AND THEN...
A LOT
drip
drip
drip
I CAUGHT A FEW OF THESE
ORITSU...!
AS I expected
Good job!
IT'S GOOD THAT I HAVE THESE
drip
drip
GREAT!
YOU CAN OFFER THIS WHOLE CATCH TO HER MAJESTY.
BUT THAT WOULD BE DISHONEST
THAT WAY WOULD SURELY BRING HER MAJESTY JOY.

I THINK IT'S BEST TOO
HERE, YOUNG MASTER
RIGHT!
BUT...
IF IT BRINGS HER MAJESTY JOY,
BOTH OF US WILL BE HAPPY!
I WANT TO SEE HER MAJESTY'S JOY,
TO PRESENT THE FISH WITH MY WHOLE HEART
WHAT HANDSOME SWEETFISH!

MISONO-SAN CAUGHT SWEETFISH THIS MORNING!
WOW!!!
Um This
WOW
WOW
WHAT A SPLENDID SKILL, MISONO-SAN
Such skill
BUT IT TURNED OUT LIKE THIS
YES
GIVE THIS TO THE DAIZEN IMMEDIATELY!
WOW WOW
Silence
pitter patter

I HOPE YOUR MAJESTY IS WELL...
UH-HUH.
Eh?
Are you not well?
...
WHY WAS SHE STARING AT ME
stare
SO STRANGLY TODAY?
...

SHE FOUND OUT THAT I DIDN'T CATCH THEM!?
PERHAPS,
slide
!
tap
WHO WAS
THAT GIRL WHO WAS WITH HIM
.....
DRIP
DRIP
WHO WAS SHE?
vague

IT WAS THE MAID FROM MY HOUSE!!
I HAVE NO EXCUSE! I DIDN'T CATCH THOSE FISH
IT WAS THE MAID!
SUDDENLY
THE MAID...
EH?
THE GIRL WHO WAS WALKING WITH YOU YESTERDAY?
You saw us
YES
With the glasses
That girl is from around here.
I thought she should come here...
...
WHAT?

IF IT'S LIKE THAT,
IT'S BEST TO SAY SO FROM THE START
MISONO,
Oh
I'M HUNGRY.
Oh,
Proud.....
Hahaha
Please wait in the dining room
...ME TOO.

THE BONES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR YOUR MAJESTY
Wow. It smells good
MISONO IS ALSO
YOU CAN'T! BONES ARE DANGEROUS.
I WANT MY FISH THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE'S.
What's dangerous about them?
...
ALLOWED TO EAT WITH ME TODAY
Wow
Wow
WHOOSH
Excuse me
Mine is whol...
WELL, I'LL PARTAKE.

RON!!
grrf
grrf
I'm hungry
!?
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW...
gone
HOW DID YOU GET HERE!?
I hid in the large chest I just came out
wheeze
wheeze
MY SWEET-FISH!!
SCREECH
Give it back!
WAIT RIGHT THERE, RON!!
WAAH
RUN

woah
kyaa
YOUR MAJESTY!

grr
I'll eat it all
SORRY, THAT WAS TERRIBLY RUDE OF US
(huff)
(huff)
Hey!
WELL, THIS TIME AS WELL...
!

MISONO-SAN!
...
YOU ATE YOUR OWN WHILE WE WERE GONE!
It's rude to use your chopsticks before Her Majesty does
DON'T GET MAD, SUKE.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HIS MANNERS.
RIGHT, MISONO?
lick

YES MA'AM!
Huh?
What's this about?
LATER ON, EVERY YEAR KAMOSAWA'S SWEETFISH WAS PRESENTED TO THE PALACE
THUS, HER MAJESTY WAS PLEASED
ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WAS THE TRUE ANGLER.
DON'T BE SO STIFF, ORITSU
tremble
tremble
tremble
BUT, BUT, YOUNG MASTER...

MEEN
MEEN
MEEN
ARE YOU ORITSU?
BOW
!
I'LL JUST GO HOME IT'S TOO AMAZING FOR ME TO MEET THE EMPEROR FACE TO FACE
HER MAJESTY WANTS TO SEE YOU
This wouldn't be allowed in the palace
I can't do it!
YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO CAUGHT BEAUTIFUL SWEETFISH
IT'S ALL RIGHT
HER MAJESTY IS KIND

THE SWEETFISH WERE VERY DELICIOUS
THANK YOU
MEEN
MEEN
blush
AH...
WERE YOU BORN IN KAMOSAWA?
thump thump
mumble
Y-YES...
THE CICADAS ARE TOO LOUD COME CLOSER
MEEN
MEEN
MEEN
mumble
mumble
mumble
mumble
HOW OLD ARE YOU? HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING?
MEEN
MEEN

MEEN
MEEN
MEEN
RITSU,
IS THAT SO?
IS MISONO KIND TO YOU?
YES MA'AM!
HE'S VERY KIND!

MEIN
MEIN
MEIN
THOSE WORDS WERE DROWNED OUT BY THE CICADAS
THEY NEVER REACHED MY EARS
I... DIDN'T HEAR THEM WELL EITHER.
CLUNK
clatter

I ALWAYS THOUGHT HER MAJESTY WAS BEAUTIFUL. HER POSITION IS FAR ABOVE MINE
clatter
clunk
clatter
clunk
clatter
I THOUGHT THAT SHE HAD EVERYTHING SHE COULD POSSIBLY WANT.
clatter
YOUNG MASTER?
clatter
clunk
clatter
clunk
HMM?
REALLY? YOU TOO?
I ONLY HEARD A LITTLE... I'D HAVE TO HEAR IT AGAIN...
clatter
clunk
BUT, REALLY,
I WONDER IF MAYBE

ABOUT YOUNG MASTER, MAYBE HER MAJESTY...
YOUNG MASTER,
ARE YOU SLEEPING!?
clack
mumble
It's because I'm an early riser
clack
.....
stare
glance
glance

shore
.....
"IS THAT SO? GOOD
"YES MA'AM!"
"IS MISONO KIND TO YOU?"
I'M JEALOUS OF RITSU."
clack
clatter
clack
clatter